

Having described the invention, the following is claimed:

1. A starter set of refractory components for starting a spiral brick lining in a ladle used for handling molten metal, said starter set comprised of:
a plurality of refractory components, each component having a planar bottom surface, an upper surface and end surfaces, said components dimensioned to be arranged end-to-end wherein the end surface of a component facing an adjacent component is dimensioned to mate with the end surface of said adjacent component, and wherein the upper surfaces of said refractory components are alignable to form a continuous, outwardly bowed upper surface profile.
2. A starter set as defined in claim 1, wherein said contoured ramp surface is arched.
3. A starter set as defined in claim 2, wherein said contoured ramp surface has a trailing end, and said ramp surface is arched such that refractory bricks set upon said trailing end of said ramp surface are near horizontal.
4. A starter set as defined in claim 3, wherein each of said component has a flat, upper surface.
5. A starter set as defined in claim 3, wherein each of said component has a contoured, upper surface.
6. A starter set as defined in claims 4 or 5, wherein said starter set has four (4) components.
7. A starter set as defined in claim 6, wherein said refractory components are cast refractory pieces.
8. A starter set as defined in claim 6, wherein said refractory components are isopressed refractory pieces.
9. A starter set as defined in claim 6, wherein said refractory components are mechanically pressed.
10. A starter set as defined in claim 6, wherein one of said components is dimensioned to be disposed in a course of bricks in said ladle and three of said components are dimensioned to be disposed on said course of bricks.
11. A starter set of refractory components for starting a spiral course of lining bricks in a ladle used for handling molten metal, said starter set comprised of a plurality of refractory components dimensioned to be assembled together to form a non-linear, contoured ramp surface having a leading end and a trailing end, said

refractory components dimensioned such that said leading end of said ramp surface is alignable with an upper surface of a first course of lining bricks in said ladle and said trailing end of said ramp surface is alignable with an upper surface of a second course of lining bricks in said ladle, said second course of lining bricks being disposed on said first course of lining bricks.

12. A starter set as defined in claim 11, wherein said starter set is comprised of four (4) components.

13. A starter set as defined in claim 11, wherein said ramp surface is contoured such that said ramp surface at said trailing end is nearly horizontal.

14. A starter set as defined in claim 13, wherein said ramp surface is arched.

15. A starter set as defined in claim 14, wherein each of said refractory components has a planar upper surface.

16. A starter set as defined in claim 14, wherein each of said refractory components has a contoured, upper surface.

17. A lining for a ladle used to handle molten metal, said lining comprised of:

a first course of like, refractory bricks arranged horizontally in said ladle, said first course having an upper surface;

a second course of said like refractory bricks arranged to spiral within said ladle, said second course disposed on said first course, and said second course having an upper surface; and

a starter comprised of at least one refractory component, dimensioned to form a contoured ramp surface, said starter being disposed between said first course and said second course of like refractory bricks, said ramp surface at one end of said starter set aligned with said upper surface of said first course and said ramp surface at another end aligned with said upper surface of said second course.

18. A lining as defined in claim 17, wherein said starter is comprised of a plurality of refractory components that are dimensioned to be assembled together.

19. A lining as defined in claim 18, wherein each of said refractory components has a leading end and trailing end, said ends dimensioned such that adjacent ends of said refractory components mate with each other.

20. A lining as defined in claim 17, wherein said starter is comprised of four (4) components.

21. A lining as defined in claim 20, wherein each of said four (4) components has a flat, upper surface.

22. A lining as defined in claim 20, wherein each of said four (4) components has a contoured, upper surface.